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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Nowak, et al.  
Serial No.: 10/644,271  
For: A BALL VALVE  
Filed: August 20, 2003  
Examiner: Tuan N. Nguyen  
Art Unit: 3751  
Confirmation No.: 5167  
Customer No.: 27,623

Attorney Docket No.: 175.7903USU

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, please find attached hereto form PTO-1449 listing information which may be material to the patentability of this application, filed concurrently herewith. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

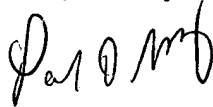
- \_\_\_ Within three (3) months of the filing date of the national application;
- \_\_\_ Within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application;
- \_\_\_ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits;
- XXX After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);

- \_\_\_\_\_ After the filing date or date of first Office Action, but before the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to the final action and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by either a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p);
- \_\_\_\_\_ After the mailing date of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, provided that this occurs prior to the issuance of a Notice of Allowance and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p); and
- \_\_\_\_\_ After the mailing date of a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.311, provided that this occurs prior to or subsequent to the payment of the Issue Fee and provided that this I.D.S. is accompanied by a certification as specified in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) and the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Filing with RCE Under 37 CFR 1.114, thus no fee is required.

Cited in the attached PTO-1449 are U.S. Patent Nos. 3,345,032; 3,656,711 4,236,691 and 4,940,208. Pursuant to the waiving of the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of these U.S. references are not enclosed.

It should be understood that attention has been called to the references that have been deemed to be pertinent to the claimed present invention. In concluding what was pertinent, the criteria employed was considered most appropriate in light of the invention shown in the present application. However, the Examiner or others may deem some other criteria to be just as appropriate or more appropriate. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully urged to review the listed references and to make the usual careful independent search for other prior art that may be pertinent.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 24, 2005

Paul D. Greeley  
Reg. No. 31,019  
Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.  
One Landmark Square, 10th Floor  
Stamford, CT 06901-2682  
(203) 327-4500

CUSTOMER NO.: 27623

Sheet 1 of 1.

FORM PTO-1449

Docket Number (Optional)

Application Number

175.7903USU

10/644,271

Applicant

Nowack, et al.

Filing Date

August 20, 2003

Group Art Unit

3753

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	3,345,032	11.10.1964	Rawstron			
	3,656,711	04.18.1972	Toelke			
	4,236,691	12.02.1980	Wright			
	4,940,208	07.10.1990	Kemp			

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	Translation	
						YES	NO
							X

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	Copy of International Search Report dated 26 November 2003 for corresponding European Application No: 03018520.1

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.

